

Sub Long clinches the points

WYCOMBE Wanderers completed an excellent double over Leatherhead when an 88th minute goal by Steve Long gave them a deserved victory in Saturday's Berger Isthmian League match at Fetcham Grove, writes **MICHAEL KNOX.**

Blues dominated the second half of the match but created few clear cut chances until Dylan Evans sent Stewart Atkins away up the right.

Using his searing pace and close control, Atkins rounded his marker and reached the bye-line before sending a powerful low cross across the face of the goal. Long had the relatively simple task of bundling the ball over the line to send Tanners to their third successive defeat.

Long had only come on as substitute midway through the second half. Mark Judd, still having trials for Walsall, was given a

work-out for the best part of an hour before being replaced.

Otherwise Wycombe started with the same team that finished against Tilbury the previous day and with that victory in mind, they began full of confidence, and took the lead in the third minute.

Leatherhead had already gone close at the other end before the home defence sent a weak clearance to Howard Kennedy just outside the penalty area. Encouraged by his first league goal of the season 24 hours earlier, Kennedy swung fiercely and sent a powerful low shot past John Swannell.

But Wycombe's joy was

shortlived as eight minutes later Leatherhead equalised through their famous or infamous striker Chris Kelly.

Kelly was fouled by Mick Holifield 25 yards out. Billy Salkeld curled in the free-kick and Kelly, coming from a deep position, ran in at full pelt to send a well-placed header past John Maskell.

In the hot weather, it was clear that neither side could maintain the pace and apart from one piece of creative play by Judd, which set up a chance for Terry Scott, there was little to enthuse about for the rest of the half.

Wycombe regained the initiative after the interval and

forced three quick corners. But Leatherhead appeared to be creating the better chances from their quick breaks upfield.

The dangerous Kelly had a shot blocked, Dennis Malley saw a shot cleared off the line during a mad goalmouth scramble while Salkeld fired just wide with a low shot.

All this time the Wycombe mid-field were in control and both Scott and Atkins went close before Long clinched the points to give the side their third successive victory and maintain their hopes of a top four place.

LEATHERHEAD: J. Swannell; J. Cooper, G. Whitehead (sub R. Eaton 45 mins), B. Davies, D. Reid, D. Malley, M. Cook, W. Salkeld, C. Kelly, J. Baker, J. Doyle.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, R. Davies, K. Mead, S. Hardwick, M. Judd (sub S. Long 66 mins), S. Atkins, M. Holifield, D. Evans, H. Kennedy, T. Scott.

Referee: J. Martin.

Half-time: 1-1. **Scorers:** Leatherhead — Kelly (11 mins); Wycombe-Kennedy (3); Long (88).